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JUDITH M. ROBER	Judith M. Robe	September 15, 2004
Name of Person Signing	Signature	Date



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 203445
Client Reference No.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mark A. Richmond et al.

Art Unit: 2839

Application No. 09/829,665

Examiner: N. Abrams

Filed: April 10, 2001

For: ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants provide the following Comments on the Statement for Reasons for Allowance.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action and all accompanying documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on September 15, 2004, in an envelope as "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 CFR 1.10, Mailing Label Number EV 419252449 US addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name (Print/Type)	JUANITA M. BOBER		
Signature	Juanita M. Bober	Date	September 15, 2004

In re Appln. of Richmond et al.
Application No. 09/829,665

The Statement indicates that "Le Gallic and Germany 2,433,729 appear closest to claim 8 limitations". Applicants respectfully object to the use of the term "closest" as the Statement fails to explain the meaning of this term.

Although the Statement for Reasons for Allowance mentions certain features in the references cited and the claims, the claims are considered "as a whole" relative to the references cited. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention "as a whole" is not suggested by the art, including Le Gallic and Germany 2,433,729.,

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Augustyn, Reg. No. 33,589
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: September 15, 2004